

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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8th ANNUAL LADIES DAY IN OLD TOWN APRIL 9, 2011
Free, All-Ages Event to be a Tribute to Women in Early San Diego

The 8th annual Ladies Day in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park will celebrate the everyday life skills, creative past times, and daily work chores of women that lived in early San Diego from 1821 to 1872. This year's event takes place on Saturday, April 9, from noon to 5 p.m. and is named Daring, Delightful & Determined Women: A Day with the Ladies of Old Town.

"Ladies Day in Old Town will showcase exciting activities that are educational as well as amusing for both children and adults," said Deanna Turton, volunteer chair of the event. "People will walk away knowing what it was like to experience and live in San Diego in the early to mid-1800s and appreciate how they mastered the life skills needed to survive and make a home for their families."

The plaza will contain volunteers and descendants from Old Town's founding families performing living history demonstrations. Booths will feature a variety of 19th century games and crafts, basket weaving, historic letter writing, crocheting and lace-making.

At 2 p.m, the event will also feature a historic hat, bonnet and day cap contest with a small entry fee. Winners of the hat contest will be recognized for their creativity, historical accuracy and how well the hat flatters the owner. Anyone with a sweet a tooth, can try their hand at hand-cranking their own ice cream, sponsored by Coldstone. Sweet toppings of all kinds will be provided. The event will showcase historic hair demonstrations so women of all ages can relax and get their hair done and experience the notable hair styles of the 1800s. There will also be hourly a garden tours as well as live entertainment from historic dancers and the Los Californios musical group.

In addition, volunteers will display historic clothing from the park's interpretive period and see a historic photography exhibit. Demonstrations on doing laundry by hand, soap making, and cooking will be featured. And finally, the Cosmopolitan Restaurant will be holding a ladies tea during the afternoon, where everyone can enjoy historic delicacies while listening to dramatic readings by performers from Write Out Loud.

The event is supported by the Boosters of Old Town (BOOT), who financially aid education programs in the park.

Free parking is available in the CalTrans headquarters on Taylor Street, one block from the event site.

For more information call the Visitor Information Center at 619-220-5422 or visit the park website at www.parks.ca.gov/oldtownsandiego .

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